

be taken to avoid or lessen that risk—and this bill is designed to help us do just that.

Already, local governments and other entities have provided important protection for portions of this mountain backdrop, especially in the northern Denver-metro area. However, some portions of the backdrop in this part of Colorado remain unprotected and are at risk of losing their open-space qualities. This bill acknowledges the good work of the local communities to preserve open spaces along the backdrop and aims to assist further efforts along the same lines.

The bill does not interfere with the authority of local authorities regarding land use planning. It also does not infringe on private property rights. Instead, it will bring the land protection experience of the Forest Service to the table to assist local efforts to protect areas that comprise the backdrop. The bill envisions that to the extent the Forest Service should be involved with federal lands, it will work in collaboration with local communities, the state and private parties.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly believe it is in the national interest for the federal government to assist local communities to identify ways to protect the mountain backdrop in this part of Colorado. The backdrop beckoned settlers westward and presented an imposing impediment to their forward progress that suggested similar challenges ahead. This first exposure to the harshness and humbling majesty of the Rocky Mountain West helped define a region. The pioneers' independent spirit and respect for nature still lives with us to this day. We need to work to preserve it by protecting the mountain backdrop as a cultural and natural heritage for ourselves and generations to come. God may forgive us for our failure to do so, but our children won't.

For the information of our colleagues, I am attaching a fact sheet about this bill.

#### COLORADO NORTHERN FRONT RANGE MOUNTAIN BACKDROP PROTECTION STUDY ACT

Generally: The bill would help local communities preserve the Front Range Mountain Backdrop in the northern sections of the Denver-metro area in a region generally west of the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology site.

Front Range Mountain Backdrop: The backdrop consists of the mountainous foothills, the Continental Divide and the peaks in between that create the striking visual backdrop of the Denver-metro area and throughout Colorado. Development in the Denver-metro area is encroaching in the Front Range backdrop area, and thus adversely affecting the esthetic, wildlife, open space and recreational qualities of this geographic feature. Now is the time to shape the future of this part of the Front Range. There is a real but fleeting opportunity to protect both protect Rocky Flats—a "crown jewel" of open space and wildlife habitat—and to assist local communities to protect the scenic, wildlife, and other values of the mountain backdrop.

What the bill does: Study and Report: The bill requires the Forest Service to study the ownership patterns of the lands comprising the Front Range Mountain Backdrop in a region generally west of Rocky Flats, identify areas that are open and may be at risk of development, and recommend to Congress how these lands might be protected and how the federal government could help local communities and residents to achieve that goal.

Lands Covered: The bill identifies the lands in southern Boulder, northern Jefferson and eastern Gilpin Counties in the Sec-

ond Congressional District; specifically, an area west of Rocky Flats and west of Highway 93, south of Boulder Canyon, east of the Peak-to-Peak Highway, and north of the Golden Gate Canyon State Park road.

What the bill would NOT do: Affect Local Planning: The bill is designed to complement existing local efforts to preserve open lands in this region west of Rocky Flats. It will not take the place of—nor disrupt—these existing local efforts.

Affect Private Property Rights: The bill merely authorizes a study. It will not affect any existing private property rights.

Affect the Cleanup of Rocky Flats: The bill would not affect the ongoing cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats nor detract from funding for that effort, and will not affect existing efforts to preserve the options for wildlife and open space protection of Rocky Flats itself.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DR. KENNETH B. CLARK

#### HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the outstanding life of Dr. Kenneth B. Clark who passed away on May 1, 2005 at his home in Hastings-on-the-Hudson, NY. Dr. Clark was 90 years old.

Dr. Clark was a social scientist best known for his pivotal research used during the Brown v. Board of Education case in 1954. Along with his wife, Mamie Phipps Clark, the two documented studies of the damaging affect on black school children from the separate-but-equal doctrine. As an attorney, Thurgood Marshall successfully used this research in his argument against racial segregation in public schools. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled the practice of racial segregation as unconstitutional because it violated the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

Dr. Clark was born in the Panama Canal Zone on July 14, 1914. His mother is credited as his model of perseverance and struggle through social issues. Over the objection of his father, Dr. Clark's mother insisted on returning to the United States. She made the solo trip back to New York City with Clark and his sister Beulah, in 1919. As a seamstress at a sweatshop in the garment district, Dr. Clark's mother supported her children and became one of the first stewards for the women's garment union. "Somehow she communicated to me the excitement of people doing things together to help themselves," Dr. Clark once said.

In addition to his work in psychology, Dr. Clark had many of his own groundbreaking achievements as an educator and leader. In 1940, he became the first African-American to earn a doctoral degree at Columbia University in New York. His wife later became the second African American to earn a doctoral degree there. Dr. Clark served as the American Psychological Association president, and in 1960, he was the first tenured African-American professor at the City College of New York. The State Department hired him as a personnel division consultant from 1961–62. By 1966, Dr. Clark was a member of the New York State Board of Regents where he remained for 20 years. After retiring from the

Board of Regents, Dr. Clark set up a consulting company that specialized in equal employment opportunity and affirmative action.

Dr. Clark is survived by his daughter, Kate Harris, his son, Hilton B. Clark, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Mamie Clark died in 1983. Dr. Clark's work as an educator and researcher remains a lasting legacy for civil rights issues. He was motivated by belief that a "racist system inevitably destroys and damages human beings; it brutalizes and dehumanizes them, black and white alike."

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Clark was an eminent scholar whose legacy will be cherished and remembered. He was a mighty influence who brought people together across racial lines. His spirit and insight were instrumental in establishing equality in education and beyond. The impact of Dr. Clark's work helped to raise the dignity and worth of all Americans.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO WILLIAM H. CROCKER SCHOOL ON ITS FOURTH CONSECUTIVE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL AWARD

#### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 4, 2005

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the William H. Crocker Middle School of Hillsborough, California, located in my Congressional district, for its 4th consecutive year as a recipient of the National Blue Ribbon Award.

For the year of 2004, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Jack O'Connell announced the 33 public and six private schools in California selected by United States Secretary of Education Rod Paige, as No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Blue Ribbon Schools.

Schools who receive this honor demonstrate excellence in education and genuine investment in the value of that education for our children. It is my honor to congratulate each and every faculty member and parent of Crocker Middle School whose dedication to the education of their children indisputably earned Crocker Middle School the honor of being a Blue Ribbon School.

Mr. Speaker, this 21-year old national recognition program sponsored by the U.S. department of Education encourages states to nominate public kindergarten through grade twelve schools that are either academically superior or demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement. The schools endure a rigorous application process, with success resting mostly on test scores, growth, and achievement in reading and math over three years. All schools selected as winners met the 2004 Adequate Yearly Progress criteria. Additionally, all schools have already been named as a California Distinguished School, or meet the qualification required to apply for this state awards program.

On November 5, 2004, Crocker Middle School received the 2004 No Child Left Behind National Blue Ribbon Schools Award in Washington D.C. On February 7, 2005, I was invited to celebrate this accolade on the campus of Crocker. As my two daughters Annette

and Katrina are alumnae of William H. Crocker Middle School, I was delighted to be a part of the celebration both as a father of and as a Member of Congress.

Mr. Speaker, during my visit to the campus and after spending an assembly period with the students, parents and faculty of Crocker, I witnessed the immense enthusiasm and spirit this school fortunately possesses. As the only middle school in the nation to have received this distinction four years in a row, I have no doubt that under the leadership of Principal Janet Chun, William H. Crocker Middle School will continue to shine.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HEPATITIS B AWARENESS WEEK

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 4, 2005*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for House Resolution 250, Supporting the Goals and Ideals of a National Hepatitis B Awareness Month. Hepatitis B is a serious health concern that unfairly attacks minority populations.

Almost 350 million people worldwide are infected with hepatitis B, with 75 percent of those infected living in Asia. This disease has similar effects on the same groups of people here in the United States. Asians have the highest rate of chronic hepatitis B of all ethnic groups. Chronic hepatitis B rates for the Asian Pacific Islanders population range up to 15 percent, which is more than half of all the Americans diagnosed with chronic hepatitis B.

African Americans are three to four times more likely than Caucasians to be infected with hepatitis B. Additionally, the African American workforce, consisting of over 3 million people, tend to work in occupations, such as nursing, health care and emergency services until they develop the more serious illnesses.

Over half the United States' total Asian American population lives in just three states, with 1.2 million living in New York. Seventeen percent of New York's population is of African-American descent.

The hepatitis disease is extremely dangerous, because not only does it lead to life-threatening illnesses such as cirrhosis of the liver and liver cancer but it can also be easily transmitted through blood and body fluids, unprotected sex, and unsterilized needles. Also, many of those who have become infected with the disease will not have recognized symptoms until they develop the more serious illnesses.

Hepatitis B can be a preventable disease if vaccination programs, increased awareness, better disease management and public education initiatives are ongoing. By recognizing the week of May 9th as National Hepatitis B Awareness Week, we can join together and attack this life-threatening disease. During Hepatitis B Awareness Week, several community events are scheduled that will bring together physicians and public health advocates, patients and at-risk populations to increase awareness and education on prevention, and treatments for hepatitis B.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to lend my support for passage of this resolution and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE REPORT ON THE FAILURE OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT TO ADEQUATELY INVESTIGATE PRISONER ABUSES

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 4, 2005*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring your attention to the recent Human Rights Watch report, *Getting Away with Torture?: Command Responsibility for the U.S. Abuse of Detainees*. This report reveals the unthinkable: The torture carried out against prisoners under U.S. authority may have been part of an official government policy. The report also points out that none of the government and military investigations carried out so far has independently examined the culpability of top civilian and military officials.

Despite strong evidence showing that high-ranking U.S. officials may be responsible for carrying out immoral and illegal policies, "independent" investigations have focused on protecting high-ranking officials and punishing subordinates instead of bringing the guilty to justice.

These actions run counter to the United States' long-standing commitment to the spirit of the Geneva Convention. The War Crimes Act of 1996 provides criminal punishment for Americans who commit a war crime inside or outside the United States, and defines a war crime as any "grave breach" of the Geneva Conventions. The Anti-Torture Act of 1996 criminalizes acts of torture occurring outside the United States' territorial jurisdiction regardless of the citizenship of the perpetrator or victim.

It should not have to be stated, but the United States must operate under the laws it has passed. If crimes have been committed they must be investigated completely.

This report raises important issues and calls for the United States Attorney General to appoint a special counsel to carry out an investigation and prosecute all government officials and private citizens that developed, approved and carried out these torture policies. I urge my colleagues to read the report, available online at <http://www.hrw.org/reports/2005/us0405/>.

#### INTRODUCTION OF EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAND TRANSFER AUTHORIZATION EX- TENSION ACT

#### HON. CATHY McMORRIS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 4, 2005*

Miss McMORRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to address an issue of importance to Eastern Washington University, located in my district in the town of Cheney,

Washington. Eastern Washington University owns a 21 acre parcel of land known as Badger Lake. The property was originally deeded to the university by the federal government under the 1926 State Recreation and Public Purposes Act. This property is restricted to the purpose for which the law was enacted, education and recreation, and it carries a "reverter clause which says that the land will revert to the federal government, Bureau of Land Management—Department of Interior, if not used for these purposes.

However, the property is located in a rural area that is not conducive to the intended recreation or education uses. The only way Eastern Washington University could legally sell or exchange the land is if federal legislation passed which releases the patent conditions on this property. In 1983, the university, with the help of Speaker Tom Foley and Senator Slade Gorton, and supported by the Bureau of Land Management, was successful in getting legislation passed (Public Law 97-435) that removed the restrictions for a five year period. Unfortunately that window expired in 1988.

In the last Congress former Congressman George Nethercutt was successful in passing legislation extending the 1983 law. H.R. 4596 passed the House of Representatives on September 28, 2004 by unanimous consent.

I rise today to reintroduce legislation to address this issue.

#### FAMILYCARE ACT OF 2005

#### HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 4, 2005*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, in our great land of opportunity and wealth, there are many Americans who have no access to one of the most basic needs: health care. In our Nation today, nearly 45 million Americans are uninsured. Today I offer a way to begin addressing this problem by introducing the FamilyCare Act of 2005. In conjunction with the Medicare Early Access Act and the Small Business Health Insurance Promotion Act that my colleagues are also introducing today, the enactment of these bills could cut the number of uninsured in half.

The FamilyCare Act of 2005 is a family-centered bill that aims to provide coverage for the 7.5 million working families with incomes below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level. This act builds upon two programs, Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program, that have successfully covered many low-income persons, individuals with disabilities, and children. It would ensure families who move from welfare to work do not lose coverage and makes it easier for low-income working families to obtain health insurance.

Improving our Nation's healthcare system continues to be a complex challenge that must be a matter of national priority. By taking these first steps, it is our hope that in the future all Americans will be able to meet their healthcare needs.